

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L OUAGADOUGOU 0050

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, UV
SUBJ: TIMETABLE FOR LEGISLATIVE AND PRESIDENTIAL
ELECTIONS

REF: OUAGADOUGOU 0038

1. DURING CONVERSATION JANUARY 5, FOREIGN MINISTER KARGOUGOU TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT THE ELECTORAL LAW WHICH WILL GOVERN THE LEGISLATIVE AND PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE GOVERNMENT AND WILL BE PUBLISHED SHORTLY. KARGOUGOU ALSO SAID HE WAS CONVINCED PRESIDENT LAMIZANA WOULD BE A CANDIDATE FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS BUT WOULD NOT RUN UNDER A PARTY LABEL.

2. MEANWHILE, THE POLITICAL PARTIES HAVE BEEN HOLDING THEIR NATIONAL CONGRESSES, SELECTING
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THEIR OFFICERS, AND ORGANIZING THEIR ACTIVITIES DOWN TO THE VILLAGE LEVEL. AT THIS POINT, THE UNDD (UNION NATIONALE POUR LA DEFENSE DE LA DEMOCRATIC), LED BY THE SON OF EX-PRESIDENT MAURICE YAMEOGO, APPEARS TO BE THE MOST ACTIVE AND IT IS RUMORED THAT THE UNDD IS RECEIVING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM IVORY COAST PRESIDENT

HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY.

3. THE NEW POLITICAL PARTY, WHICH IS EXPECTED TO BE OFFICIALLY REGISTERED SHORTLY, IS THE PARTI DU REGOUPLEMENT NATIONAL (PRN) HEADED BY FASSANOU KARAMBIRI. LITTLE IS KNOWN REGARDING THE PROGRAM OR IDEOLOGICAL MAKE-UP OF THIS NEW PARTY. KARAMBIRI IS A NIGHTCLUB OWNER WHO IS SAID TO BE INFLUENTIAL IN GOVERNMENT CIRCLES. HE BELONGS TO THE SAME TRIBE AS PRESIDENT LAMIZANA, AND IT IS REPORTED THAT THE PRESIDENT USES HIM OCCASIONALLY FOR SECRET MISSIONS ABROAD. SOME OBSERVERS BELIEVE THAT THE PRN WAS FORMED TO PROMOTE THE CANDIDACY OF PRESIDENT LAMIZANA. TO THOSE WHO HAVE QUESTIONED THE NECESSITY FOR A NEW DEADLINE FOR THE REGISTRATION OF POLITICAL PARTIES, THE GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE HAS BEEN THAT THE PREVIOUS DEADLINE LAST NOVEMBER WAS FOR POLITICAL ACTIVITIES CONNECTED WITH THE REFERENDUM ON THE NEW CONSTITUTION, WHEREAS THE NEW DEADLINE OF JANUARY 15 SET BY THE GOVERNMENT ON JANUARY 5 IS FOR THE LEGISLATIVE AND PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS.

4. COMMENTING ON THE TIMETABLE FOR THE ELECTIONS, THE INDEPENDENT DAILY "L'OBSERVATEUR" OF JANUARY
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6 REMARKS THAT THE POLITICAL PARTIES WILL BE FACED WITH DIFFICULT CHOICES. ASSUMING THAT THE NEW ELECTORAL LAW WILL NOT PERMIT A CANDIDATE TO RUN FOR BOTH THE LEGISLATIVE AND THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS, THE POLITICAL LEADERS WHO HAVE PRESIDENTIAL AMBITIONS WILL HAVE TO DECIDE BEFORE MARCH 1 WHETHER THEIR CHANCES OF BECOMING CHIEF OF STATE ARE GOOD ENOUGH TO PERMIT THEM TO FOREGO THE LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS. L'OBSERVATEUR CONCLUDES THAT, SINCE IT IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT THE VARIOUS PARTIES COULD AGREE ON A SINGLE CANDIDATE FOR THE PRESIDENCY, A POLITICAL LEADER WOULD NOT, ON HIS OWN, TAKE SUCH A CHANCE OF BEING EXCLUDED FROM THE LEGISLATURE, " UNLESS, OF COURSE, THE FUTURE CANDIDATE, THE REAL ONE...SHOULD BE - PERSONALITY UNCONNECTED WITH ANY OF THE POLITICAL PARTIES." GRAHAM

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